

ARMY AIR FORCES BASIC FLYING SCHOOL
GOODFELLOW FIELD, TEXAS

Friday night
Oct. 2, 1942

Hiya, Gang,

Here I sit, - just chomping away on some of Brownley's candy, my shoes off with my feet up on the bed, just kinda relaxin' enjoying myself to the best of my ability! - Thanks a lot for the candy Sister, it just hits the spot and all the fellows are fast coming around to my way of thinking, that I've got one of the very best of Sisters! So there! - No kidding, - we've all enjoyed ourselves just playing pigs - but you shouldn't have done it - It runs up into too much money.

My free time? - Guess I'll have more and more of it till we leave Goodfellow. But then, I bet as our schooling decreases - they will start increasing our drilling! - They just couldn't see us loaf! Our flying is just about finished - they expected to finish it tomorrow, but it will probably run into the middle of the week. Our ground school ended today - that is - all 'cept code which will continue until we leave, I think. -

I was lucky today. I didn't have to take the final exam in meteorology! Those with an average of 90 or better were exempt! - I've been hitting for that all along but wasn't sure I had made it. - I knew my average was awfully close, but above or below - I didn't know. Yesterday, they posted the averages and mine was 92! - I'm really lucky, not having had an opportunity to study more than I have.

I think most of it can be credited to the foundation I got under Dr. Ames and at Chickasha. But a lot goes to Physics & stuff. I've really appreciated my engineering studies at G.W. - It all adds up and every little bit helps. - And I need help!!! No fooling, tho, - all this high power studying develops a new studying technique and if I could only go thru college and keep this pace - it would be a snap! - But liking your studies helps a lot, I guess. - I'd like to go on with meteorolgy some time. - ~~But~~ The point I can't figure out is - when it's all said done - why do you still have to flip a coin to tell whether or not it's going to rain tomorrow?

We've been doing a lot of radio beam work and acrobatics this week along with our usual formation and instrument work. In our radio part we are turned loose somewhere in the sky, - locate the radio beam, then thru a varied procedure we locate ourselves, just where we are along the beam, - then proceed along it to the airport — we hope! - It is really interesting and lots of fun. - But the real fun comes in acrobatics! These ships aren't very good in acrobatic work but the order came out for us to do it, - so - - - "we dood it". - My instructor is "top notch" and we have more darn fun. - we do more stuff in these than I did in the P.T.'s in primary (and they were supposed to be for acrobatics!) For awhile - after I first came to Goodfellow - I lost all interest in flying - and dreaded almost to go to the flight line - that was with my old instructor. - But this new one has brought back my love for it and I want to fly now worse than ever - and you know what that means! - Flying to him isn't just a job - he loves it, - has studied from all angles and makes it a true science - which it really should be. I'll be sorry to leave him behind.

Saturday —

A few minutes before chow, so maybe I can finish this off. - The news of the day —:

The list is published and I know where I'm going! Of all places — twin engine! - Ye Gods - one engine is almost more than I can fly - and now they're going to throw another one at me. - In addition - these advanced ships have retractable landing gear! - Something tells me there's going to be lots of "belly landings" mit out de wheels! Just as you get where you really feel at home in one type of ship — bang - you get another type. - Guess it all adds up to something I've heard called experience? - could be.

And where am I going? - To Lubbock, Texas! What, you don't know where that is? - Well, to tell the truth, neither do I. - That is, exactly. - It's roughly about 200 air miles north or north west of San Angelo. Up in the pan handle of Texas and not too far from New Mexico. - It's pretty high there, too. - I think the air map shows it around 3000 ft - My instructor says it is one of the biggest and best twin engine schools in the country and I should consider myself lucky to be going there. - Well, - he knows - I don't - 'cept I'm glad it's twin engine — tho I would have been contented just to get to go, anywhere. Both have their own advantages — pursuit, its acrobatics and twin engine, heavy stuff with it's usefulness after the war. At least I think Lubbock is handier to main lines of transportation. - Besides being more desert - I can say no more.

— Well - lunch call - I'll mail this now and write again soon,

Love Frank